

# California GARDEN

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR

SUMMER, 1956

VOLUME 47, NO. 2

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Tower of California Building — Seen Through Trees in Balboa Park

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## CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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For use of the Floral Building, Floral Association groups and affiliates are asked to check the calendar with our House Chairman, Mrs. Eugene Daney, CY 5-8595.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 12 . . . . . 9:30 - 12:30 a.m.**  
Flower Arrangement class, Floral Building.  
Instructor: Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick.  
First of seven classes.  
Second Tuesday of each month.  
For information, call Mrs. R. S. Hoyt,  
CY 6-2757.

**June 19 . . . . . 6:00 p.m.**  
Pot-luck supper, Floral Building.  
Election of officers . . . . . 8:00 p.m.  
Speaker: Mrs. Mildred Davis, Instructor in Hort., U.C.L.A.  
Subject: Perennials in Southern California,  
also Color by Foliage.

Vacation until September 18.

**June 23 . . . . . 2 to 5 p.m.**  
Tour of Frank Gander Nursery, Escondido.  
Just beyond Felicita Park, Route 395.

**June 29 through July 8**  
Southern California Exposition and County Fair, Del Mar.

**July 18 through August 19**  
Fiesta del Pacifico, San Diego.

**August 4 and 5**  
San Diego County Dahlia Show, Recital Hall, Balboa Park.

**August 11 and 12**  
Annual Fiesta de las Flores Flower Show, La Mesa.

## Garden Clubs — Notice

Affiliate membership in the San Diego Floral Association is available to all garden clubs within the city limits of San Diego. Annual dues of \$10.00 entitles an affiliate to representation on the executive board of the Floral Association, two subscriptions to California Garden, and weekend flower shows in the Floral Building. An additional fee of \$15.00, for the building maintenance fund, entitles an organization to the use of the building for meetings and to the use of another building in the park for a flower show. Garden clubs interested are asked to write a letter petitioning affiliate membership.

### BEAUTY, HERE TO STAY

In the heart of every garden  
Dwells a poem for you and me  
Adorned with birds and butterflies  
And now and then a bee.

When the low winds stir the roses  
And crisp the lilled pond  
With beauty so persistent  
There must be more beyond

Edgar Klauber

**Membership** in the San Diego Floral Association includes a subscription to California Garden. Classification of memberships: Annual, \$3.00; Family, \$5.00; Sustaining, \$5.00; and Contributing, \$25.00. Memberships and gifts are deductible from income tax.



# California Garden

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR

SUMMER, 1956

VOL. 47, NO. 2

*The author, who is Instructor of Ornamental Horticulture in San Diego Junior College, is expecting all of us to back his slogan of—*

## Plant More Trees

Edward F. Roach

How do *you* visualize the San Diego of 1980? As I close my eyes to seek the answer to this question I see a large metropolitan area stretching from the harbor to the mountains and meandering along the coast from the border to Oceanside. I see a city of one story houses and a quilting pattern of sunny patios alternating with areas of shade and part shade provided by hundreds of thousands of trees. I see trees in the canyons framing open views to the sea or mountains. In other canyons trees screen and soften the prospect of too many nearby houses. I see parkways and avenues universally developed following a landscape plan and not merely a sporadic attempt at planting rows of street trees. Another glimpse reveals developed playgrounds and schoolgrounds in each neighborhood in addition to the large areas of Balboa Park, Mission Bay Park, and Torrey Pines Park developed for recreational and civic use while retaining or enhancing their native beauty. I see a vast composition in greens and tans.

I hope your image of San Diego in 1980 is something like mine. If a considerable number of us are convinced that this is what we want and are willing to work toward such a goal it will come to pass.

There are many obstacles to be overcome. Perhaps the greatest one is that we San Diegans are predominately newcomers to this

land. Intimate knowledge of the trees which grow well in a region does not come quickly and that which is learned from one's parents about the trees and plants in an older community must here be learned by study or hard personal experiment. Many parts of San Diego are cool enough so that shade is not needed and therefore trees in this situation cannot crowd around the living areas. Water is in short supply so attention must be given to drought resistant trees. Finally, as the fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States, all of our municipal services must be expanded thus bringing increasing taxation and increasing pressures against municipal spending. Here the use of better tools and the new planning in such matters as automatically controlled irrigation systems may help ease the burden of park and parkway maintenance. Further, taxpayers and civic leaders may willingly spend money for plantings when they are sold on the sound idea that a beautiful city will attract a desirable kind of worker, tourist, and industry.

San Diego needs more trees now and must plan for the growth to come. We San Diegans know the potentialities for arboreal beauty which our climate and soil afford because in many of our residential districts, in Balboa Park and Presidio Park, and in some parkways such as Cabrillo Freeway such beauty has been achieved. Too often in the past, however, plant-

ing of trees on private property and along streets and parkways has been neglected or pursued indifferently. Now, under the pressure of rapid growth, we are not planting enough trees to assure the future beauty of the city.

Each of us can do his part by encouraging the state, county, and the city to plant more trees, by planting trees himself, and by encouraging his neighbors to plant trees. Of course we do not want indiscriminate planting of trees to turn this area into an unmanageable forest. Success will come only by all of us making careful selections of trees to be planted.

In planting street trees the homeowner is provided with professional advice on what to plant. The San Diego Municipal Code Sec. 62.132 states that, "No tree, palm, shrub, or plant shall be planted in any of the streets or other public highways of the city of San Diego until the Superintendent of Street Trees shall have first approved the kind and variety, designated the location therefore and granted the permit for planting same." Call BE 2-2604.

It is in planting trees on the rest of his property that the homeowner must exercise the most delicate judgment to realize the opportunities for beauty afforded by his site.

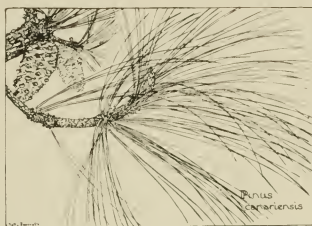
Planting just the right tree is not a simple matter. If you plant a tree for shade consider the shade pattern. Will you want a dense or filtered shade? How will the shade

pattern vary in the different seasons, at different times of the day, at different ages of the tree? Should you plant a deciduous tree or a broad leaved evergreen tree? Deciduous trees provide summer shade but allow for winter sun with the added bonus of changes of interest and color in different seasons. The leaves must be gathered in the fall, but all trees drop leaves and deciduous trees may be accommodating in doing this in just a few weeks. Broad leaved evergreen trees provide shade and are a dependable part of the landscape the year around. If you plant a tree to be part of a total landscape composition or to frame a view, consider such things as the scale of the tree, its colors, texture, form, fruit, flowers, bark pattern, and trunk configuration in making your choice. When trees are planted to provide screens, windbreaks, and noise filters the requirement of use will narrow the area of choice. Regardless of use we should know and must meet the climatic, soil, and cultural requirements of the species.

How, then, should the homeowner go about choosing trees for his place? One way is to hire a landscape architect whose training and experience fits him to make good choices. Another way is to learn enough about trees so that he will make a good choice himself. The first step in getting to know trees is identification. Once you know a tree and have seen it growing in several locations and at various stages of maturity, ideas about how it can be worked into the landscape begin to come.

Secondly, there are many good books, lists, and pamphlets available to San Diegans to simplify their knowledge of trees. Some of these are listed in the bibliography.

Thirdly, the cliché, "Ask the man who owns one," expresses good advice for one about to plant a tree. Such a statement of the tree's nature is of most value if



your advisor's tree is planted in a climate and edaphic situation similar to your own.

Lastly, a check list such as this may help prevent mistakes.

1. Does the tree solve the landscape problem for which it is being used?
2. Is this tree the most beautiful one which can be planted under the circumstances?
3. Is a deciduous or an evergreen tree best for the situation?
4. How high will it grow?
5. How far will it spread? Will it crowd the house or other trees?
6. How close to the ground will the lowest branches be?
7. What kind of root system does it have? Do things grow under it? Does it clog sewer lines or heave pavements?
8. How much water must it have? How much will it take?
9. Does it have any undesirable insect pests or disease?
10. Is it excessively dirty?
11. Is it dangerous because of brittle limbs or falling fruit?
12. How fast does it grow? Will I live long enough to enjoy it?
13. Is it short lived?
14. How hardy is it?
15. Will it take wind or sea breeze?
16. Does it require lots of sun or heat to do well?
17. Does it require special soil or drainage?

## TREES FOR SMALLER AREAS

Now, if YOU are ready to plant some trees, you might begin by considering first some of the following relatively small trees, suitable for patios and the average city lot which have proved to be choice in this area. They are among my favorites. Location of specimens is indicated after each species.

### 1. *Acer palmatum*—

Japanese Maple, Japanese Garden, Balboa Park.

This is an elegant deciduous tree for the small garden or patio. There is interest in its every detail: the picturesque branching, the finely cut sculpturing, and the yellow or red color of the leaves each of which varies in different varieties, and the small purple flowers which precede leafing out in spring. It is slow growing and very old specimens may attain a height and spread of twenty-five feet. Protect from wind and strong sunlight. It is best when planted in a well-drained loam having humus, and when watered regularly without wetting leaves. Prune in winter to shape, if needed. The Japanese Maple can suffer from wilt fungus which will kill the tree but is worth chancing.

### 2. *Pyrus kawakami*—

Evergreen Pear.

S.W. cor. 6th & Grape St.

This evergreen plant can be trained as a small tree to thirty feet, or kept as a shrub, or may be espalliered. The glossy green leaves which are on limber branches gently wave in the wind and its year around blooming habit make it a pleasure to have in a small garden. Grows well in a moist well-drained soil. Its most serious fault is that it will not by itself assume a tree shape and must be pruned regularly to keep in shape. It is sometimes subject to fire blight.

### 3. *Olea europaea* — Olive Tree. 4455 and 4480 Trias St.

This small evergreen tree grows to a height of about twenty-five

feet and will grow naturally to, or can be trained to assume, an open, picturesque form. It grows well, though slowly, under drought conditions but will come along faster with water and training. The grey leaves are attractive. Fruit drop is a drawback to fastidious gardeners.

4. *Pittosporum undulatum* — Victorian Box.

N. of Russ Auditorium entrance.

This naturally shrubby evergreen plant grows fast and can readily be trained to form a dense rounded tree of about thirty feet in height and spread. It is a fool-proof sort of plant which will survive with indifferent treatment, but some drainage, monthly watering, and spring feeding will make it thrive. Creamy, fragrant flowers are profuse in the spring and fill the garden with a scent like orange blossoms. The orange colored fruits split open and drop sticky seeds. It is useful to soften the lines of a two story building as it will fashion itself around corners.

5. *Prunus cerasifera pissardi* — Purpleleaf Plum.  
2344 Pine St.

This small deciduous tree grows to about twenty feet. The main reason for planting it is the attractive reddish-purple foliage, which may form a welcome contrast to other colors in the garden. Foliage is best in the spring and is improved by heading.

6. *Phoenix reclinata* — Senegal Date Palm.  
Across from Electric Building, Balboa Park.

If you are interested in a tropical effect this is one of the best trees available. Usually it has sev-

eral trunks which arch gracefully out from a central base. It is a fairly small palm attaining a height of about thirty feet, with a twenty foot spread, and not hardy below 25 degrees F. The Senegal Date Palm looks more like the true Coconut Palm (not hardy here) than any palm we grow. It stands neglect but grows best with regular watering and fertilizing. Trimming off the dead fronds can run into work as the tree attains size, but this is the only drawback to its use here.

7. *Jacaranda acutifolia* — Jacaranda. 3600 Fifth St.

Profuse flowers of the most delicate shade of lavender-blue make the Jacaranda one of the most beautiful flowering trees. It is almost evergreen, being leafless only in February and March. It is best in a situation where drainage is good and where it is not too windy. Do not plant in heavy clay. Water deeply, not oftener than once a month. Jacarandas grow fairly rapidly to a typical height of about forty feet with a 25 foot spread.

8. *Metrosideros tomentosa* — New Zealand Christmas Tree  
La Jolla Park, S. of Cove

Here is a good flowering tree which will stand salt spray right up to the ocean's edge. It is slow growing to a typical height of twenty-five feet with about the same spread. The flowers are dark red and appear in June and July. It is best in well-drained soils and should be watered deeply at monthly intervals. It has no serious faults except that the fruit capsules are persistent.

## TREES FOR LARGER AREAS

1. *Platanus racemosa* — California Sycamore.

Predominant tree, center island, Cabrillo Freeway.

The California sycamore is a large, picturesque, deciduous tree which is best when selected as a multiple trunk specimen. It will grow rapidly to a height of eighty feet and have almost as much spread. If you don't mind picking up the leaves this is one of the few large trees that does not seem out of scale near a one story house. It can bring to your property some of the rustic charm of a back country creek bed. The patchwork pattern of green to buff-brown to white, on the trunk, is attractive the year around. It is of easy culture but better if watered deeply. Its one serious drawback is blight which can be kept fairly well under control by spraying with Bordeaux Mixture before it leaves out in early spring.

2. *Podocarpus elongata* — Fern Pine.  
N. W. Corner First and Juniper. 2665 Narcissus Drive.

This is a tree that can be pruned into any shape or size desired, but it is best used in a situation where it can grow moderately to its eventual full stature of some seventy feet. Its evergreen foliage is soft, dark green and elegant. It is hardy to 10 degrees but may be expected to do better in the higher humidity and lower light intensity which prevail within five miles of the coast, than farther inland. Plant in well-drained loam and water weekly when young. Leaf litter is some problem, but what

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San Diego is nationally famous for new plant hybrids. It was fun to see our foremost dahlia hybridist on TV with Groucho Marx, her latest honoree. Here she asks:

## How Do Your Dahlias Grow?

ROSE MARIE COMSTOCK

Are your dahlias up? Are they a little yellow? Do the leaves show signs of thrip damage? Well, here are a few tips to start them on their way to being blue ribbon winners at the dahlia show on August 4th and 5th in the Recital Hall in Balboa Park.

If the tubers you planted a month or more ago are not yet showing above the ground, better dig down and see if too much moisture has caused the dormant bulb to rot away.

If the plant is up and looks a little yellow or not quite up to par those are signs of lack of nourishment in the soil. Give it some completely balanced plant food, one that contains nitrogen, super phosphates and potash. Be sure that the nitrogen content is very low or the stems on your flowers will be weak. A regular feeding of a 4-10-10 mixture once a month

is ideal.

This is the time of year that garden pests attack your plants. Spraying with a good all around insecticide is recommended. Watch out for thrip and aphids now. Thrip is indicated when the dahlia leaves are curled and snarled. Spray regularly to prevent, rather than cure.

When the dahlia shows three or four sets of leaves, pinch out the center of the plant to let the laterals grow. This will give you a strong bushy plant, rather than a tall slender one, with only a crown bloom. Be sure to water your plants once a week, soaking the water six inches into the ground.

I hope you have given the garden a lift by adding one or two of the new varieties of dahlias each year. They will serve as conversation pieces, when your friends call and as a source of comparison



Groucho Marx

with the older varieties.

Our Groucho Marx, with its 13 by 10 inch semi-cactus white blooms would add interest to any garden. We feel it is the most distinctive dahlia we have brought to the market. Or perhaps you would prefer the sheer exquisite beauty of the huge yellow formal decorative, First Lady, which rolls back to the stem to give the appearance of a lovely ball. You may choose the starry-eyed beauty of the medium-sized cactus dahlia, Florence Chadwick, with its pure

tree is there which doesn't drop leaves?

### 3. *Pinus canariensis*—

Canary Island Pine.

3500 7th Ave., 4496 Trias St.

This is, in my opinion, our most beautiful pine. Its soft, slightly drooping, grey-green needles give the tree a texture which is hard to describe, but beautiful to behold. It gets tall, to eighty feet, but retains a pyramidal shape usually having a spread of less than twenty-five feet. It grows best under conditions of good drainage but is not fussy about care. It is too big to be used near an ordinary sized house.

### 4. The Eucalypti

A discussion of trees for San Diego could never be complete without including eucalyptus trees. There are hundreds of species, almost all of which will survive or even flourish in this climate after once being watered a few

years to establish. They are better in well-drained soils with an occasional deep watering, however. They are evergreen but constantly drop leaves. These are the trees for the canyons and back places on your property. They have come to symbolize California as much as gold or oranges. Plant them. Here are two good ones.

*Eucalyptus sideroxylon rosea* —  
Red Iron Bark, 776 Rosecrans

An upright and slightly pendulous tree to fifty feet having showy rose-colored flowers.

*Eucalyptus maculata var citriodora* — Lemon Scented Gum  
3500 Seventh Avenue.

A tall tree to over one hundred feet which retains branches only near the top of its long giraffe-like white trunk. Lemon scent of leaves pervades adjacent areas at times. These trees are as graceful in the wind as any I know but will drop some limbs, with a crash,

when the wind gets too strong.

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*For a deep down expression of the joy of a fleeting moment in the garden, or in life, give me*

## Leaves from The Observer's Notebook

MARION ALMY LIPPITT

"There's nothing like it," I sighed, stretching myself at full length on the grass beside the garden pool. "It's the acme of completion. It stands smiling serenely and says, 'Here I am!'"

"Are you reading aloud?" inquired Henry, removing his horn-rimmed glasses as he looked back over his chair to where I lay stretched out on the ground.

"I was reading from the blue sky, the distant haze of summer, the occasional croak of the frog in the pool, and the gay ripples of color in the garden."

Henry eyed me speculatively and returned to the sketch he was making of the chimney and the corner of the house silhouetted against the sycamores across the arroyo. His back said, "No comment."

I lay in silence for a time. I wanted to hear what Henry had to say about summer. He always has something to say about everything. His ideas are usually unique. He did not disappoint me this time either. But I had to ask first, wistfully, "What do you think about summer?"

He replied, "Someone once wrote that when God finished the Teton Mountains in Wyoming He

white petals tipped with light lavender. If your weakness is for delicate pink, then Stardust, with its shimmering silver glow, will please. No matter what your desires or dreams may be, you will find exactly what you want in dahlias. They come in every color except blue, in sizes from 1/2 inch up to 14 inches in diameter. There are lovely blended shades as well as bi-colors of two distinct colors.

Any Sunday, after August 26th, you are welcome to visit our dahlia gardens at 145 West Dahlia Drive in Solana Beach, California.

said, 'Now I know how to make mountains.'" Henry laid his glasses on his knee, joined my gaze into the sky and said, "I think when God developed summer He said, with deep satisfaction, 'Now I know how to make a season.'" "

I crept over to Henry's chair and grabbed him by an ankle. "You are so satisfactory," I volunteered.

He continued to sketch undisturbed. He reminded me of a St. Bernard going down the street with a puppy yapping at its heels. I sat up tailor-fashion beside him.

"Where the sunlight strikes your hair it is red-gold." He dusted the top of my new permanent curls with his pencil as he spoke.

"Thank you, sir, she said," I quoted. "I thought the same of that red-brown zinnia on the left."

Henry viewed the zinnias with pride. He had worked hard to bring them to their present perfection.

"Where did you get those lovely fluted ones that look almost like chrysanthemums?"

Henry's expression was a mixture of apology, defensive bravado, and glee.

"Firestone advertised them as a free gift over the TV," he replied.

"Free seeds. How provident!" I murmured.

"I figured Firestone would have to give away the best in order to make a favorable impression for their other products. I planted those seeds in March and April . . . ."

"Clever boy! I like the way you've massed all the zinnias in the triangular corner of the garden like a huge wedge of pie." I could not resist getting up and going over to examine the blooms more closely. "They have an innate dignity and an underlying harmony that blends their vivid colors."

"Yes," agreed Henry, "and furthermore they are undemanding if you give them what they want."

"How delectably human," I commented.

Henry ignored my aside.

"They love sun," he continued, "and ask a rich light loam. I have fertilized them with liquid manure every three or four weeks. They'll bloom from June to November."

"I think I'll water them now," I said, taking off for the toolshed. I returned with a new, bright-green plastic hose which resembled an elongated, pompous, garter snake.

"Zinnias like moderately moist earth," he remarked watching me have fun with the adjustable spray.

As I watered I repeated softly Reginald Arkell's poem, "Drought":

"When, with my garden hose,  
I slake the sod,  
I am as one of those  
Who walk with God.

I am His April shower,  
His summer rain;  
I cause the drooping flower  
To bloom again.

O, thirsting sod,  
Fear not that brazen sky;  
I am your god —  
Until His springs are dry."

Henry nodded his approval, which sweetened my day.

It's a beautiful ride along the ocean  
to

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### "MEET ME AT THE FAIR"

The California Exposition and County Fair at Del Mar, which opens June 29th, is one of the largest events of its kind in the Southland. Every feature of an old-fashioned country fair will be found there. Local gardeners should not overlook the exceptional opportunity to glean new ideas for their own gardens by close observation of the beautiful plant materials displayed in the horticultural and floricultural departments, by nurserymen, growers, clubs and individuals.

In the spirit of the Fiesta del Pacifico, the exhibit that will be entered by the San Diego Floral Association will be named: "Casa de las Flores de Mexico." Featuring a colorful array of plants that have their origin in that land, it will run the gamut from tropical orchids to sun-loving marigolds. There will be restful seats from which to enjoy the display.

An outstanding free show of international renown at the Fair will be the "Flying Indians," direct from Southern Mexico. This seven-man troupe, garbed in costumes made of colorful bird feathers, does a spectacular dance atop a 100-foot pole, with a breathtaking descent to earth on long unwinding ropes secured to their waists, giving every appearance of graceful birds in flight.

It is cool and quiet when the gates open at 10:30 a.m. The bus

*Summer treat is a visit to the Rosecroft Begonia Gardens on Point Loma. But for the best mocking bird in the place, sneak up on Kathryn when she's a-whistlin'.*

## Tuberous Begonia Time

KATHRYN HUNTER

Soon these great mocking bird flowers will show the first of a long series of blossoms, lasting five to six months. Because of our ideally cool, moist climate, San Diego homes should boast of at least three of these plants to lift the ordinary spot into a "joy forever."

Tuberous begonias do not imitate so much as they improvise and, like the mocking bird, often come up with some beautiful new melodies. Beginning in July you may come to Rosecroft and see from our garden paths tuberous begonias that run the gamut of flower mimicry. Their blooms may resemble anything from a rose to an orchid, a sunflower to a cockscomb or even a mountain dogwood. It is fun to watch the people who are finding their heart's delight. The gabble of "ohs" and "ahs" is sometimes overwhelming.

But, back to reality. We often hear our garden visitors remark, knowingly, that tuberous begonias are "hard to grow" or "temperamental" or "subject to mildew." Only the latter is true. But mildew also affects roses, dahlias and melons, yet we plant them uncomplainingly. Yes, beautiful, tasty things do not always come easily. Now we have an excellent control for mildew but there are also these suggestions to prevent it.

First, when buying plants, select not only for color, style and size

but also for thickness of leaf, which we find is more resistant to mildew.

Second, place your plants where the air will circulate and move on. Mildew spores are airborne. Where there is a downdraft they settle and, if on a good host, they grow. Avoid putting plants on a back shelf against a solid wall. This does not mean they will be better in a breezeway. However, if securely staked and tied, tuberous begonias will take a good straight wind.

Third, water your plants in the morning if they need it. Avoid washing the foliage unless it is really dusty, then do it early so the plant will be dry before night. Mildew spores love a nice wet begonia leaf which stays damp longer at night. In the dryer areas keep the paths wet and spray the air to maintain humidity.

Fourth, keep your plants well fed. A hungry, carelessly grown plant is an ideal subject for mildew. This is particularly true of begonias. To prevent infection, eradicate any plant that is not well and happy. Mildew is volatile. It is up to each of us to help others to combat it.

Now, if all these precautions fail and some foggy morning you spy a speck of white powder on a leaf, don't put off the cure. Take out after that spot with a dose of "Doo-spray." Follow directions on the bottle. Nothing has helped us so much. Keep a sharp eye for reinfection but you only need to spray when you see it, not before. This is a control for all mildews. Tell your nurserymen, gardener and friends. We must fight this together.

stops right at the door, but there is also plenty of parking space near-by. Admission prices are: adults, 85c; children, 25c. Picnic tables are on a lawn with overhead shade. Hasta la Vista!



*Is this Cloud 10 or something? Tune up your space ships, gardeners, we should all get aboard after this vivid briefing by the Superintendent of Mission Bay Park in his*

## Garden Center Envisioned for Mission Bay Park

JOHN W. MCGHEE

Mission Bay Park, 4600 acres of water and land, located south of Pacific Beach and west of Highway 101, may some day become the outstanding aquatic park in America. This is the opinion expressed by many park directors across the country who have examined the potentialities of the 7.5 square mile recreation area as set forth in the current planning by the Mission Bay Park Commission.

Although work in the park is going forward for facilities for 6,000 — 8,000 recreation boats plus all other types of aquatic sports and recreation, planners are not overlooking the esthetic features necessary to make the park be appreciated by all visitors.

As one glances through the pages of the Park's Master Plan, he is pleased to find so much emphasis on landscaping and garden features. In addition to tree growth so necessary to park utility, the landscaping is being designed to create atmosphere, to enhance the natural beauty of the land and water areas, and to present attractions in floral growth year round. Numerous palms will line parkways and dot the landscape thus creating a tropical motif which the eastern or northern visitors expect to find here. A Palmetum is being considered for the Park. Not only will its wide variety of palms be of interest to tourists, naturalists, educators and others but it will serve a useful purpose in providing palms for other plantings throughout the park. Since this may be the only Palmetum on the west coast, it is highly probable that the Department of Agriculture would help to finance it.

All approaches to the park, as well as a strip adjacent to park thoroughfares, will be landscaped with palm trees, shrubbery, and blooming plants. This is very important along Highway 101 since that is also an approach to the City. It has been discussed that a monthly floral display should be arranged at each parkway intersection and at each individual park approach. This can best be done by using potted or tubbed flowers and shrubs from the Park's nursery camouflaging their setting with low shrubs of a permanent nature. These displays arranged by a skilled landscape gardener can be changed quickly by the garden crew. Watering and maintenance will be part of the regular Park maintenance program. Thus, the occasional as well as the new visitor will be impressed by the fresh and beautiful welcome to San Diego's aquatic wonderland.

In one section of the Park, it has been suggested that a permanent area for commercial flower exhibits be established. This area would be maintained by commercial flower exhibitors and set up in a manner similar to that used in the displays shown at the County and State Fairs. Even though these exhibits are commercial, they will be visited over and over by people who desire to glean new ideas in landscaping, gardening, soil culture and planting. Others will visit them for their natural and artistic beauty. This commercial beauty feature can be established at no cost and in time may even return a direct revenue.

It is planned that the landscaping of the Park will include a pattern of evergreen trees for decorative purposes at Christmas and other festive seasons.

The wild life area will have a landscaped border of approximately 200 feet in width. This border will include deciduous and evergreen trees, low shrubs, and vines thus providing homes and food for the birds in this sanctuary. Winding paths, with benches, fountains and photographer niches will round out this decorative border. Thus two purposes will be served: (1) a buffer between the wild life area and the public will be established, and (2) an otherwise unsightly area will be made beautiful and will contribute to the esthetic values of the Park. The Federated Garden Clubs of Southern California have indicated that they will accept this as a project.

Since landscaping is so important to Mission Bay Park's tourist future, the development plan for each lease area, as submitted by the lessee, must include a detailed landscape plan, which must have the approval of the Mission Bay Landscape Architect. Each leased area will be inspected at least once annually by the Park's Landscape Architect to determine if the landscaping is being maintained in a

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manner compatible with the high standards desired in the Park.

Tourists from the north and east want to see not only palms and tropical flowers but they also hope to see cacti. As part of the landscaping program to attract and please visitors, there may be added a cactus garden. It can be located in one of the fringe sections of the Park area. In this one area the visitor could enjoy a far greater variety of cacti and other desert plants, than he could see on a trip into the desert. To the local citizenry the cactus garden would not only appeal esthetically but it would also have an educational value.

The development of a tropical or Polynesian garden has been proposed for a peninsula in east Mission Bay. It would be unusual and distinctive. It could be an outstanding attraction in landscaping and natural beauty. This tropical garden would be built with private capital and would return revenue.

The planners of the Mission Bay Park of the future have noted the success of Garden Centers in other areas. The Fairchild Gardens of Florida have made a distinct contribution to that State. As an area of great beauty and distinctiveness, Fairchild Gardens has become one of the great tourist

attractions of the South. Culturally, esthetically, and educationally, these Gardens are recognized nationally and internationally. The Rose Gardens of Columbus, Ohio attract thousands of visitors annually to the Buckeye State, this despite the fact that the climate limits the gardens to seasonal displays only. The Azalea Gardens of Norfolk, Virginia — again seasonal — attract springtime visitors for hundreds of miles. In Southern California, such Garden Centers as the Huntington Gardens and the Descanso Gardens have clearly illustrated their values to their respective areas.

A survey of San Diego has disclosed that Garden Groups and Floral Societies are in dire need of a well-planned Garden Center such as those mentioned elsewhere. With this thought in mind, an area in Mission Bay Park might well be set aside and planned to give San Diego the outstanding Garden Center of the entire country. As the park is constructed, certain features will need to be engineered into the Garden Center. First, it will need a location where it is not subject to harmful air drainage. Next, it will need an elevation above the high tide line sufficient to insure that saline capillarity can be easily overcome. A

sunken garden design may be necessary to eliminate salt breezes detrimental to many plants. Depth and type of top-soil to fill the area as well as the subsoil and drainage will need be scrutinized carefully as the area is planned. After engineering and agricultural prerequisites are met, design of the area as to layout will need be studied. Artistically, such items as pools or lakes, streams, bridges, trails, buildings, exhibit hall, accesses, crowd control features, seasonal floral displays, tree growth and a multitude of related items will be studied and placed on a plan. This in turn must be reviewed by the Garden and Floral Groups that will sponsor the total Garden Center. It should also be passed upon by experts in other parts of the country. From their comments and the criticisms, a master plan compatible with the needs of all facets of the community, can result.

The writer envisions an area of approximately 100 acres in the South Mission Bay Park as being adequate for a Garden Center that might well be America's finest. Through cooperative planning and coordinated programming by all interested agencies and groups, plus City subsidization, it can become a reality in a few short years. It might well be one of San



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Diego's finest tourist attractions with its monthly floral displays and, in season, flower exhibits and shows. It could in short order be hosting conventions of floral and garden groups. Its educational research and exhibit features would be endorsed by schools, landscape gardeners and others. Artists and photographers would come from far and near to catch the exquisite beauty on display. Magazines, newsreels, and writers would feature the Center in stories across the land. The Mission Bay Park Garden Center, a dream today may well become a fantastic reality of tomorrow.

To date, the Garden and Floral Groups of San Diego have shown a kindly interest only in the Mission Bay Park development. Perhaps a consciousness of the needs for the total future should be aroused. Time is of the essence if they are to avail themselves of the opportunity at hand, namely to have included in the Mission Bay Park master plan a Garden Center of the first order. Next, each group must recognize its role and agree to work cooperatively with other groups for a coordinated program of development compatible with the needs of all. Finally, some group or groups must come forth as leaders in welding together all the others in the common cause—An Outstanding Garden Center in San Diego.

*When Janet takes up her clippings she gets some dandelions in*

## Compost

JANET RICHARDS

### MORTON ARBORETUM COMPETITION

Results of the "small house competition" sponsored by the Morton Arboretum "to stimulate and demonstrate original thinking on the relationship between the interior and exterior of houses" will be announced in early summer. The winning two and three bedroom suburban and country houses of contemporary design will be constructed on the site of the Arboretum at Lisle, Illinois, 25 miles southwest of Chicago, for occupancy by the Arboretum staff. They will constitute a permanent exhibit of residential landscape planting.

The competition is approved by the American Institute of Architects. Prizes total \$15,000.

That an arboretum can call a competition for the stimulation and demonstration of original thinking about houses and plants is highly commendable. It would seem that most arboreta are on their last limbs and those inadequately staked. So this action of the Morton Arboretum calls for a little focus on the institution.

Joy Morton, a salt merchant, "When It Rains, It Pours," founded the Morton Arboretum in 1921. It was to be devoted to practical

scientific research in arboriculture and horticulture. He set aside a tract of partly wooded land adjoining the family home. The original area is now 1,100 acres.

J. Sterling Morton, his father, was a newspaper publisher in Nebraska City and served as Secretary of Agriculture under Grover Cleveland. He is best known to us as the founder of Arbor Day.

The Morton Arboretum is a privately endowed, unaffiliated educational foundation administered by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. Sterling Morton is now chairman of the Board.

More than 4,800 species, varieties, and hybrids now grow there and the ultimate aim is to grow every tree, shrub, and vine capable of surviving the climate of northern Illinois.

The Arboretum publishes an illustrated monthly reporting the results of investigations with noteworthy plant materials . . . "The Bulletin of Popular Information." Subscriptions, \$1.00 a year.

\* \* \*

### KLAUBER'S RATTLESNAKES

Trade Winds column in the May 19th *Saturday Review* has this to say about two of the Floral Association's long standing mem-



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bers: Laurence M. Klauber has dedicated his two-volume work "Rattlesnakes" (Univ. of California Press) to his wife, "who not only endured a basement full of rattlesnakes for more than thirty years, but also suffered the annoying impositions of austerity that go with research in the home." Among the "impositions": rattlesnakes occasionally loose in the house.

\* \* \*

### ANTS IN HER PLANTS

*Lab World* Editor, Louise Simonson, clipped this story for *Compost* from the Texas Health Bulletin:

A team of State Department of Health entomologists and vector control specialists were engaged by the Austin Garden Club, the largest such club in the country, to instruct its membership in methods of controlling garden pests with safety to themselves. It seems the ladies were particularly interested in such things as identification of common garden insects and which insecticides could safely be used against what bugs and when. The instruction was carried out on a high plane and was undoubtedly well received by club members. As the meeting was breaking up, one dignified lady garden enthusiast expressed her approval like this: "Now I know how to get rid of the ants in my plants!"

\* \* \*

### PLENTY SMELL: PLENTY FOOD

Takahashi, who owns and runs the 47th St. Nursery made an in-

*If you ever feel old visit this Curator of Botany on the top floor of the Natural History Museum. She is perennially young in her enthusiasm for Nature.*

## Penstemon in San Diego County

ETHEL BAILEY HIGGINS

Last year I joined a Penstemon Club. The officer whom I contacted was in Portland, Maine. The penstemon is a widely scattered genus most plentiful in the western United States. Abrams, in the *Flora of the Pacific States*, lists 91 species. Only one of these, *Penstemon antirrhinoides*, the Yellow Bush Penstemon, as I recall it, was on the Maine list of species there in cultivation. They recorded many difficulties in growing penstemon, most of which were the result of climatic conditions.

I believe if I were to choose a single genus as a specialty in cultivation, the Penstemon would be it. We have in San Diego County, in the native state, eleven species, including one hybrid.

When I think of Penstemons, my favorite *P. spectabilis* comes to mind as the first I had ever seen. Fifty seven years ago, I came upon fields of it under the oak trees on the Baldwin Estate, in Arcadia. Two years ago I saw almost as spectacular a growth where great fields had been taken over by this beautiful plant, in a burned-over area in this county. I knew it as the Violet Beard-tongue.

At that time I had with me Mrs. Parson's *Wild Flowers of California*, my first purchase on arriving in the state in 1899. A new edition of this book, with appendix, bringing it up to date nomenclaturally and arranging the flowers by color, has been issued by John Thomas Howell of the California Academy of Sciences.

teresting observation about plants. Said he, "All plants must have food and water. But one thing, plants with plenty smell, like gardenias, need plenty food. More food than plants with no smell."

A close second on my list is *P. cordifolius*. This is a climbing plant straggling through other shrubs. It has bright green leaves, heart-shaped at the base, as indicated by its specific name. It has large scarlet flowers whose casual resemblance to those of an entirely different plant has suggested the common name of Scarlet Honey-suckle. It is a coastal plant and finds itself happiest there.

The Scarlet Bugler is my third choice. This plant, *P. centranthifolius*, truly belongs to San Diego County, as it is found from the coast to Palomar and Cuyamaca Mountains and into the desert. It is a straight unbranched plant with scarlet flowers arranged along its stiff stems.

Last summer I saw great masses of *P. heterophyllus*, the Blue Penstemon, growing in a garden. A beautiful sight, it made me more enthusiastic about its use in cultivation than I was before. In masses like this, it is most desirable.

Several of the mountain species are beautiful and might well add color to our gardens. *P. ternatus*, known as the Summer Penstemon, is scarlet flowered, with long slender branches. *P. labrosus* and *P. bridgesi* are similar in a casual way, both with scarlet flowers. I recall them in long drifts of color along the roadsides on Palomar.

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## THE EDITOR'S POCKET

In its April meeting, the Board of Directors voted an honorary membership to Chauncy I. Jerabek for his extensive contributions to the horticultural knowledge of this area.

A great admirer of Kate Sessions, he has carried on her interest in growing new plants and her ability to stimulate others to try them. As Superintendent of the Balboa Park Nursery, he has built up an outstanding collection of rare and unusual plants there. He has given unselfishly of his time for walk-talks through the Park and Nursery and for informative exhibits at flower shows. He has written authoritative articles for this magazine and, now that he is retiring from the nursery work, we hope he will have time for more contributions. His nice sense of humor is evident in this card he circulated on a change of address:

"We used to live where we ain't  
no more;  
We've moved where we never  
was before,  
You know where we was, but  
not where we is;  
So here's the new address  
where 'tis."

\* \* \*

With our annual meeting in June, Mrs. Mark Baldwin ends her two years as hardworking and devoted president. She has strengthened and added to the activities of the club, and has built up a splendid relationship with our

affiliates and civic organizations. The Association is grateful for her gracious leadership.

\* \* \*

We are grateful to the *San Diego Union* for letting us know in a pertinent way that the power of its press is alert to the necessity of guarding our Park heritage. Under the above caption, in his column of April 29th, the editor writes:

"As long ago as April, 1947, one of the world's most able park authorities, Frederick Law Olmstead Jr., warned that further developments in Balboa Park 'must be carefully and consistently planned.'"

"This week the directors of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce revived public interest in this subject when they urged that the City Council appoint a committee of citizens to re-examine Balboa Park and make recommendations for its development and the preservation of its heritage.

"Nine years to the month after Olmstead issued his warning, the Chamber of Commerce has found that plans for the park are 'both obsolete and inadequate.'"

"Balboa Park is too rich a San Diego asset to be the victim of haphazard planning."

\* \* \*

A correspondent, Charles B. King, instructor in Van Nuys High School, says, in part:

"We are very much interested in the excellent article, 'Much about Mulches' by Frank C. Quintana, in your Autumn, 1955 issue.

## FIESTA DEL PACIFICO

When Fiesta del Pacifico begins, on July 19th, it will usher in a month-long series of community events revolving around 14 nightly performances of "The California Story," a huge outdoor musical drama, which unfolds the legend of California's historical background. A cast of 1300 will present this pageant in a dozen acts in Balboa Stadium, under the leadership of Vladimir Rosing, director of the New York City Opera Center, with music under the baton of the renowned Meredith Wilson.

Special events such as aquatic and horse shows, costume and military parades, luaus, rodeos, barbecues and outdoor dancing will be staged by neighboring communities. All this in addition to the Playhouse in La Jolla and the Shakespeare Festival, Summer Symphony and Starlight Opera in Balboa Park.

For those with horticultural interests, La Mesa will present its annual Fiesta de las Flores, a flower show for home gardeners, on August 11th and 12th. The San Diego County Dahlia Society will attract enthusiasts over that flower to their big show in the Recital Hall in Balboa Park on August 4th and 5th.

... Our sincere congratulations to you in your production of a magazine of consistent quality and great interest."

*P. antirrhinoides*, the Yellow Bush Penstemon, under certain conditions is a rather inconspicuous part of the chaparral; in other situations, it stands out as a beautiful shrub. On the Poway cut-off its yellow, open-throated flowers are very much larger than usual. This evergreen shrub is a desirable addition to our list of natives for the garden.

*P. ambiguus* var. *thurberi*, the Desert Bush Penstemon is an unusual one. Its rose-colored flowers are quite different, almost halverform. It is attractive but strictly for the desert. It is rare in the county, being found in only one locality. I suspect that it would not be amenable to garden conditions and should be left to its chosen environment.

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## Books for Summer Reading

ADA McLOUTH

CAMELLIAS IN THE HUNTINGTON GARDENS: OBSERVATIONS ON THEIR CULTURE AND DESCRIPTIONS OF CULTIVARS, by William Hertrich. *San Marino, Huntington Library, 1954. \$10.00.*

The collection of camellias in the Huntington Gardens comprises 1000 varieties and cultivars, of which 249 are described and pictured in this volume.

The use of the word "cultivar" follows the ruling of the 13th I.H.C. (1952), the word to be reserved for reference to those forms of cultivated plants known to have originated, or to be maintained only under cultivation, while "variety" is to refer to those forms occurring in the wild.

The Huntington Library contains famous, rare and early works on camellias and reference to these as well as to contemporary materials, gave the author all important sources for a scholarly treatment of his subject. The Colour Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society is used and measurements are cited by centimeter.

Instructions as to culture are based on practices developed during the fifty years since Mr. Hertrich took charge of the gardens of the Huntington estate and found growing there two large camellia

shrubs. From this small beginning developed the present ten acres devoted to testing and selecting the camellias most suited to Southern California, and to experimenting in propagation methods. In addition, the gardens serve as an example of beautiful landscaping and as a demonstration field for cultural methods.

General information, compressed and readable, occupies less than forty pages of the book. The balance devotes three pages of description and three photographs to each cultivar.

Happy the lot of one who could spend forty-odd years developing fabulous gardens and then retire to watch over and write of them.

\* \* \*

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF FLOWERS, translated from the French Text of J. M. Guilcher. Photographs by R. H. Noailles. *New York, Philosophical Library, 1945. \$4.75.*

This book of less than 10 pages is chiefly photographs accompanied by clear explanatory text. In pictures the reproductive processes of plants are traced. The photographs are enlarged to show in detail such minute parts as pollen grains. The peregrinations of pollen in the course of fertilization effected by insect, wind or contact

in the one flower, are illustrated. The photographs are beautifully clear, the text is condensed expertly. All the secrets of stigma, pistil, stamen and pollen are revealed.

\* \* \*

HOW TO GROW ROSES, by John Paul Edwards and The Editorial Staffs of Sunset Magazine and Books. *Menlo Park, Lane Pub. Co., 1955. \$1.50.*

This book, approved by local rose growers, is a practical aid in selecting and growing roses. It is admirably clear and condensed with drawings to clarify instructions, and photographs that show many landscape uses for roses. It includes the 1955 ARS selections.

\* \* \*

### ORCHIDS OR DESERT ORNAMENTALS

The University of California publishes a pamphlet by H. M. Butterfield, "Orchids for the California Amateur" which no amateur can afford to be without. Write for Manual No. 18. Price: twenty-five cents.

Also, "Ornamental Plants for Low-Elevation Desert Areas of Southern California" which contains an invaluable plant list prepared by Mildred E. Mathias, Robert S. Ayers, Woodbridge Metcalf, Chester L. Hemstreet, Marston H. Kimball, and Dean D. Halsey. Bulletin 750. No price listed. Address: Univ. of California, Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service, Berkeley, California.

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## Garden Chores

ADA PERRY

One of the summer chores is the business of cussing out crabgrass. This is easily accomplished by sitting in the shade and fortifying one's self with a cool drink. The only trick to it is to fix the idea so thoroughly that when fall comes, one automatically applies crabgrass seed killer. Comes spring, one doesn't fall back on one's work slacks. One applies crabgrass seedling killer two or three times. Summer rolls around with its victory and its opportunity for planning a fresh campaign. Do not let the crabgrass matter slide unless you want a pitched battle the next year.

If you want to get in a few active licks during the summer, there are two sprays and one granular material that I know of. One of the sprays is new and very interesting. Its abbreviated moniker is "Methar" and its promoters are very proud of it, naturally. It is rated as an arsenical which is not highly poisonous and allows children and pets to play on the grass after three days. (Nursery business or not, you certainly have my sympathy there.) It can be used on dichondra and four days after spraying with it, new seed can be sown. It is also said to get common chickweed and foxtail. This sounds very interesting. It could be worth tying up your pet cocker for three days for the sake of his foxtail-catching ears.

The other spray is a potassium cyanate. It seems to have some very good points but by golly it's not to be used on dichondra. But think nothing of this. Nothing's perfect you know.

Crabgrass granular control is easily applied with a spreader, like fertilizer, and is not spectacular since plugging is necessary. You put it on several times. But I understand you can run a spreader and smoke your pipe and besides

you are also working on fungus diseases peculiar to the good old summer time, since this granular control is mercury. It can be used on dichondra and this is good because dichondra sometimes produces a hunk of fungus that is a lollapalooza.

Saw the cutest defense of well balanced fertilizer for lawns instead of sulphate of ammonia. The question was, "Am I not knocking myself out putting fertilizer on my lawn that makes it grow and makes we mow twice as often?" And the answer, by a nation-wide lawn seed company was, "Not if you use a well balanced fertilizer which also grows roots and plant structure; put on sulphate of ammonia and you will be mowing like crazy until it wears off.

I've written a lot about lawns because I do believe that, with the reduction in space of grass areas, people are becoming more interested in quality. And I wouldn't wonder if some of us old cactus-back San Diegans might be considering putting in a quality patch of healthy grass. A small one, of course, which will really look good.

There is the silliest argument going on down where I work regarding which is the prettier, late large light pink camellia, Pearl Maxwell or Eleanor Hagood. It's something like choosing between French pastries, first one and then the other looks "the goodest." Of course you have to give your camellias catering service during the summer as this is when they like to eat. Every camellia food has a schedule on it. Our nursery has been sending out orders of top grade camellia mix and cottonseed meal pretty heavy. If you want to experiment with an all-year feeding schedule, the field is open for many more trial reports. It looks like that liquid with the chelated iron and zinc and soil penetrant; and top grade fish emulsions, have the inside

track for all-year experiments in camellia feeding.

A lot of reticulata camellias have gone into San Diego gardens this year and I would like to issue a warning: namely, let your reticulata be the boss. Don't try to push it with extra water or extra food. I don't believe these handsome guys want all you can give them until they get a good deal bigger and have much heavier root systems. And even then they may be like the Chinese sages who counsel moderation. By the way, nobody seems to know how big "Retics" are going to get in Southern California. So if you plant them in the ground, plant them where they will receive shade during the middle of the day now and where you can provide artificial shade later if necessary.

The lady who snatched Benard nursery from oblivion has been convalescing in a sun room full of plants and do you know that she has around a garden statue outside her window? — potted marguerites and pelargoniums with dianthus Beatrix potted in front and potted Hahn's ivy trailing down between and I hope she likes it as much as I like the apple trees with Cherokee roses along her fence in the lower level of the nursery. This spring those apple trees and Cherokees bloomed at the same time and I wish I'd had a colored news camera handy. It would have shown those Temperate Zoners something. I notice the number of times "potted" is used above and if Mrs. Cavanaugh sees it she's bound to mutter, "what, no potted ham!"

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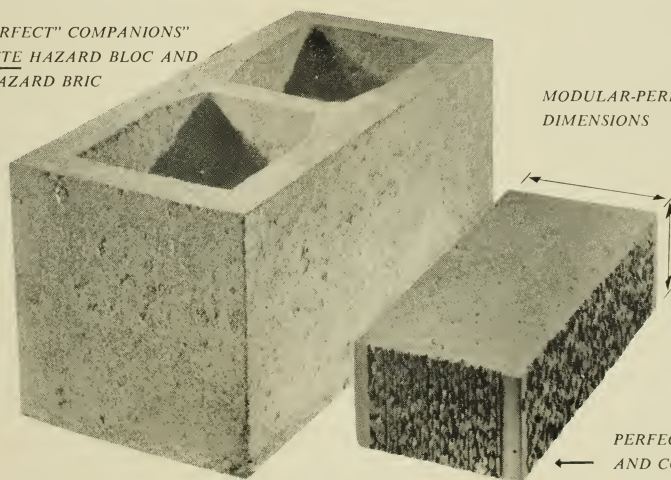
### THE RIGHT IDEA

From Encinitas, via the *San Diego Union*, comes word that the Chamber of Commerce of that town has received a check for \$554. from the estate of Paul Schafer, a longtime resident. He willed the funds to help finance park beautification.

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